

9/14/09 (12)



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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September 2, 2009

Mayor Paulina Knibbe
472 Main St
Acton, MA 01720-3939

Dear Mayor Knibbe:

We are writing to you today to request your assistance in advancing The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (MPCA) to meet its next milestone of 1000 signatories. Such a broad demonstration of mayoral support for local climate action will give strength to efforts by the Administration and Congress and in our states to make progress on necessary actions to confront this global challenge.

We are currently 971 strong, representing almost 85 million Americans in every state of this country. In your state alone, 30 mayors have signed the agreement. We have worked hard to develop strong climate protection policy in cities across the country, and the federal government is finally starting to respond to our leadership. The 1000th MPCA Signatory, which we expect to announce this fall, will provide further impetus to pending federal initiatives.

U.S. cities can – and should – act to reduce global warming pollution, both in our own municipal operations and in our communities. Many of us are already seeing reduced emissions through programs such as energy conservation, urban forest restoration, more efficient development, alternative fuels in our fleets and other transportation-related initiatives. We need to continue to send a strong message to our federal partners that while local action is critical, we also need strong federal policies that enable further action.

In December 2009, world leaders will meet at the 15th Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP 15) in Copenhagen with the hopes of ratifying a new set of binding climate protection targets for the world. The urgency of this conference cannot be overstated since we now know that climate change is happening faster than original projections suggested and significant action needs to be taken to stem the tide that threatens to overtake the globe.

To further your review of this request, we have enclosed a copy of the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, along with a signature page. For more information on the agreement, please go to -- <http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/agreement.htm>. Please join with your colleagues throughout the U.S. and make this commitment for your city and your citizens.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Nickels".

Greg Nickels
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Cochran".

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director

Attachments



The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

(As endorsed by the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, Chicago, 2005)

- A. We urge the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, including efforts to: reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, waste to energy, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels;
- B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that 1) includes clear timetables and emissions limits and 2) a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and
- C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:
 - 1. Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan.
 - 2. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities;
 - 3. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;
 - 4. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in "green tags", advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, recovering landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of waste to energy technology;
 - 5. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;
 - 6. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;
 - 7. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system;
 - 8. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;
 - 9. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;
 - 10. Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community;
 - 11. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂; and
 - 12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.



The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement – Signature Page

You have my support for the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mayor's e-mail: _____

Staff Contact Name: _____

Staff Contact Title: _____

Staff Phone: _____

Staff e-mail: _____

Please add my comments in support of the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. We will add these to the Website (*optional*):

Please return completed form at your earliest convenience to:

**The U.S. Conference of Mayors
Climate Protection Center**

By Mail:
1620 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

By Fax: (202) 293-2352

For additional information, contact
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(202) 861-6728